



INTRODUCTION

The collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the Cold War have not brought an end to the need for a strong defense against ballistic missile attacks. Instead of facing a potential confrontation with a global nuclear power, the United States faces challenges that are different but no less complex: the spread of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction into new parts of the world. These new threats increase the need for a strong, active ballistic missile defense using only the most advanced weapon systems.